

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT FORFOLK VA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BURSEL BEL

SECSTATE WASHDC 5433

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO

SUBJ: AZORES INDEPENDENCE

REF: PONTA DELGADA 478 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR DEC 22 DISCUSSED DECREE LAW ON AUTHONOMY WITH SOCIALIST LEADEC (AND FONMIN SEC STATE) MEDEIROS FERREIRA.

EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE INFORMAL CONTACTS ON MATTER.

2. WE DOUBT THAT DISCUSSIONS WILL RESULT IN ALTERATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY ON AUTONOMY. IN ANY CASE, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE ANY ACTION ON AZOREAN DEMANDS UNTIL AFTER JANUARY 1.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR OPINION ON FOLLOWING:

--WE UNDERSTAND AZOREAN MILITARY GOVERNOR AND JUNTA PRESIDENT GEN MAGALHAES IS CURRENTLY IN LISBON FOR DISCUSSIONS ON AZOREAN AUTONOMY. IS JUNTA LIKELY TO BRING AUTONOMY ISSUE TO HEAD PRIOR TO HIS RETURN?

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--REFTEL INDICATES VIVIEROS AND AZOREAN PPD DEPUTIES--
AND THEREFORE, PRESUMABLY, JUNTA AS WELL--ARE SATISFIED WITH
DRAFT ON CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR AUTONOMY. DEC 16 DECREE
LAW SPECIFICALLY PROVIDES FOR REVISION OF ITS TERMS FOLLOWING
PROMULGATION OF CONSTITUTION, WHICH SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN LATE
FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH. HOW LIKELY IS IT THAT AZOREAPS WOULD
BURN THEIR BRIDGES BY UNILATERAL DECLARATIGN OF INDEPENDENCE
PRIOR TO PROMULGATION OF CONSTITUTION?

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